GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:241
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2001
CELLPHONES IN TIHAR JAIL
VILAS BABURAO MUTTEMWAR

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several inmates of Tihar Jail are found possessing cellphones and continue to carry on with their nefarious activities with the help of these mobile phones;

(b) if so, the number of Tihar inmates found possessing cellphones;

(c) whether any inquiry has been made to ascertain the way in which they manage to get these phones;

(d) if so, the findings thereof;

(e) whether the Government propose to provide jammers in Tihar Jail to make the cellphone unfunctional;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and
(g) the steps being taken to check the flow of mobile phones in the Tihar Jail?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO)

(a)&(b): During the last two years, in two separate incidents, one Cell Phone and one SIM Card were recovered from two inmates of Central Jail, Tihar.

(c)&(d): One Cell Phone was recovered from the possession of an inmate lodged in Jail No.3 of the Central Jail, Tihar on 26th April, 2000. The inquiry conducted by the Jail Administration revealed that this Phone was concealed in one of the articles handed over to the prisoner by his visitors during interview hours. Again, in the course of a surprise search conducted by the Prison authorities on 7th November, 2000 in Jail No.4 of the Central Jail, Tihar, some prohibited articles including two sockets and a SIM Card were recovered from the Cell of a prisoner. The SIM Card was found to be concealed in a transistor kept in the Cell.Though the efforts were made to trace the Cell Phone, it could not be located.

(e)&(f): One Cell Phone Jammer has been installed inside the Jail premises and is used in each Jail by rotation.

(g): The steps taken by the Jail Administration to check the flow of Mobile Phones inside the Jail include searching and frisking of the staff and visitors before entering and leaving the Jail premises; carrying out of surprise searches under the supervision of senior officers; and use of sophisticated gadgets like metal detectors, deep search metal detectors and Cell Phone detectors by the frisking team to detect the prohibited articles.